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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to funding from the National Mortgage  
3     Settlement; providing an appropriation from the  
4     General Revenue Fund to the Florida Prepaid Tuition  
5     Scholarship Program to purchase 2-year dormitory  
6     residence advance payment contracts for certain  
7     students; providing an appropriation from the General  
8     Revenue Fund to the state courts system to provide  
9     technology solutions to expedite foreclosure cases  
10    through the judicial process; providing an  
11    appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the  
12    state courts system to provide certain supplemental  
13    resources; providing an appropriation from the General  
14    Revenue Fund to the clerks of the court to assist and  
15    support the courts in expediting the processing of  
16    backlogged foreclosure cases; providing an  
17    appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the  
18    Office of the Attorney General to provide legal aid  
19    services to low- and moderate-income homeowners facing  
20    foreclosure; providing an appropriation from the  
21    General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and  
22    Families to fund capital improvement grants for  
23    certified domestic violence centers; providing an  
24    appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the  
25    Department of Economic Opportunity to provide a grant  
26    to Habitat for Humanity of Florida for certain  
27    purposes; providing requirements for Habitat for  
28    Humanity of Florida; providing financial audit  
29    reporting requirements; requiring certain funds to be

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30 repaid by Habitat for Humanity of Florida to the  
31 Department of Financial Services for deposit into the  
32 State Housing Trust Fund; providing an appropriation  
33 from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Housing  
34 Finance Corporation to provide funding to reduce rents  
35 on new or existing rental units through the State  
36 Apartment Incentive Loan Program; providing an  
37 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the  
38 Department of Economic Opportunity for specified  
39 purposes; providing requirements for the expenditure,  
40 disbursement, and transfer to the State Housing Trust  
41 Fund of certain appropriated funds; providing a  
42 contingent effective date.

43  
44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 Section 1. Notwithstanding the funding match provisions in  
47 s. 1009.984(2), Florida Statutes, the nonrecurring sum of  
48 \$9,117,895 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the  
49 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program as established in s.  
50 1009.984, Florida Statutes, in order for Take Stock in Children,  
51 Inc., to purchase 2-year dormitory residence advance payment  
52 contracts for eligible students who are in grades 10 and 11  
53 during the 2012-2013 school year and have been selected to  
54 participate in the scholarship program.

55 Section 2. The nonrecurring sum of \$5,262,579 is  
56 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the state courts  
57 system to provide technology solutions that expedite foreclosure  
58 cases through the judicial process. Such technology solutions

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59 must enable judges and staff to effectively use electronic  
60 documents when disposing of foreclosure cases, produce orders  
61 electronically, provide for electronic calendaring, serve orders  
62 electronically, and generate case management reports. All  
63 technology enhancements to expedite mortgage foreclosure cases  
64 must be completed in accordance with the standards set by the  
65 Florida Court Technology Commission regarding functionality as  
66 outlined in the Case Processing Application Standards.

67 Section 3. The nonrecurring sum of \$16 million is  
68 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the state courts  
69 system to provide supplemental resources, including, but not  
70 limited to, additional senior judge days and temporary case  
71 management staff in the trial courts to reduce the backlog of  
72 pending foreclosure cases.

73 Section 4. The nonrecurring sum of \$9.7 million is  
74 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the clerks of the  
75 court to enhance levels of service to assist and support the  
76 courts in expediting the processing of backlogged foreclosure  
77 cases.

78 Section 5. The nonrecurring sum of \$10 million is  
79 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of the  
80 Attorney General, who must contract directly with regional legal  
81 aid service providers to provide legal aid services to low-  
82 income and moderate-income homeowners facing foreclosure.  
83 Administrative costs or fees may not be collected or used by the  
84 Office of the Attorney General, any association, or any  
85 foundation for providing services with the funds appropriated in  
86 this section.

87 Section 6. The nonrecurring sum of \$10 million is

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88 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund in a fixed capital  
89 outlay appropriation category to the Department of Children and  
90 Families for capital improvement grants to certified domestic  
91 violence centers in accordance with s. 39.9055, Florida  
92 Statutes. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall  
93 serve as the lead entity to create a competitive request for  
94 proposals with the primary focus of increasing bed space and  
95 expanding capacity of emergency shelter services. Award  
96 decisions shall be completed within 60 days after the effective  
97 date of this act.

98       Section 7. (1) The nonrecurring sum of \$20 million is  
99 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
100 Economic Opportunity to provide a grant to Habitat for Humanity  
101 of Florida for the acquisition and rehabilitation or  
102 reconstruction of existing housing stock to provide affordable  
103 housing to low-income applicants. Habitat for Humanity of  
104 Florida may use up to 1 percent of the grant award for direct  
105 administrative costs.

106       (2) Habitat for Humanity of Florida shall provide  
107 compliance and oversight for the grant award and shall:

108       (a) Provide to the Department of Economic Opportunity the  
109 name and contact information for the Habitat for Humanity of  
110 Florida compliance officer, to be updated within 10 business  
111 days after any change.

112       (b) Develop a request for proposals to be released to the  
113 58 Habitat for Humanity of Florida affiliates no later than 60  
114 days after the effective date of this act. The request for  
115 proposals shall be limited to projects that undertake the  
116 acquisition and rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing

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117 housing stock and provide affordable housing to low-income  
118 applicants.

119 (c) Use the grant award within 2 years, the start date of  
120 which is 30 days after the request for proposals is released to  
121 the 58 Habitat for Humanity of Florida affiliates.

122 (d) Provide the 58 Habitat for Humanity of Florida  
123 affiliates a minimum of 30 days to respond to the request for  
124 proposals.

125 (e) Establish a volunteer committee of at least six members  
126 from any of the 58 Habitat for Humanity of Florida affiliates to  
127 evaluate and rank project proposals received and determine  
128 project awards based on that evaluation and ranking.

129 1. Project awards shall be provided on a cost-reimbursement  
130 basis for work completed and paid for by the Habitat for  
131 Humanity of Florida affiliate for a qualifying home that was  
132 acquired and rehabilitated or reconstructed for a low-income  
133 applicant.

134 2. The Habitat for Humanity of Florida compliance officer  
135 is responsible for verifying that all project work is completed  
136 and has been paid for by the Habitat for Humanity of Florida  
137 affiliate before a cost reimbursement.

138 3. A Habitat for Humanity of Florida affiliate may not  
139 receive cost reimbursements in excess of 10 percent of the total  
140 appropriation, except that an affiliate may receive cost  
141 reimbursements in excess of 10 percent during the second year if  
142 the only project proposals remaining are from Habitat for  
143 Humanity of Florida affiliates that have reached the 10-percent  
144 cap.

145 (f) Provide technical support and assistance for the use of

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146 grant award funds by the Habitat for Humanity of Florida  
147 affiliates, which shall not exceed 2 percent of the grant award.

148 (g) Submit a quarterly progress report to the Department of  
149 Economic Opportunity within 30 days after the end of each  
150 quarter until all grant award funds have been expended. The  
151 quarterly progress report shall include, but need not be limited  
152 to:

153 1. Events occurring during the quarter, or anticipated to  
154 occur in the near future, which affect the ability of Habitat  
155 for Humanity of Florida to use the grant award for the intended  
156 purpose pursuant to this section.

157 2. Action plans for addressing any policy and  
158 administrative issues.

159 3. Habitat for Humanity of Florida efforts related to  
160 collecting and verifying data.

161 4. Data collected and verified, such as the number of  
162 existing housing stock acquired and rehabilitated or  
163 reconstructed for the quarter and to date, the number of  
164 requests for proposals received, and income data on applicants  
165 who are using the provided housing.

166 5. Grant award data disaggregated by recipient and  
167 activity, such as technical support and assistance, direct  
168 administrative costs, housing acquisition, and housing  
169 rehabilitation or reconstruction.

170 6. Activities related to technical support and assistance.

171 7. The name of each volunteer committee member and his or  
172 her Habitat for Humanity of Florida affiliate.

173 8. Progress toward meeting the goal of spending the full  
174 grant award within 2 years, the start date of which is 30 days

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175 after the request for proposals is released to the 58 Habitat  
176 for Humanity of Florida affiliates.

177 (h) Submit annually by September 1 to the Department of  
178 Economic Opportunity a financial audit performed by an  
179 independent certified public accountant for the most recently  
180 completed fiscal year which establishes that no material  
181 weaknesses or instances of material noncompliance exist.

182 (3) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall submit a  
183 copy of each financial audit from Habitat for Humanity of  
184 Florida to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
185 House of Representatives within 15 days after its receipt.

186 (4) Any funds that are not expended or encumbered by June  
187 30, 2015, and any funds that were deemed encumbered on June 30,  
188 2015, and not expended by September 30, 2015, shall be repaid by  
189 Habitat for Humanity of Florida to the Department of Financial  
190 Services for deposit into the State Housing Trust Fund within  
191 the Department of Economic Opportunity. A final audit shall be  
192 submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity by January  
193 30, 2016, for any expenditures made after June 30, 2015.

194 Section 8. The nonrecurring sum of \$50 million is  
195 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
196 Economic Opportunity for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance  
197 Corporation (FHFC) to provide funding to reduce rents on new or  
198 existing rental units through the State Apartment Incentive Loan  
199 Program created under s. 420.5087, Florida Statutes.  
200 Notwithstanding s. 420.5087, Florida Statutes, \$25 million of  
201 these funds shall be reserved for rental units for the elderly  
202 as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes, and \$25 million  
203 shall be reserved for rental units for extremely-low-income

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204 persons as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes.

205 Section 9. (1) The nonrecurring sum of \$10 million is  
206 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
207 Economic Opportunity for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance  
208 Corporation (FHFC) to fund the construction or rehabilitation of  
209 units through the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL).

210 (2) Each SAIL development that receives funds under this  
211 section must include up to 25 percent, but not less than 10  
212 percent, of its units designed, constructed, and targeted for  
213 persons with developmental disabilities as defined in s.  
214 393.063, Florida Statutes. Each development shall be required to  
215 enter into an agreement with at least one designated supportive  
216 services lead agency, such as the local Center for Independent  
217 Living, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or any other  
218 such agency approved by FHFC, for the purpose of coordinating  
219 services and housing for persons with disabilities.

220 Section 10. (1) The nonrecurring sum of \$40 million is  
221 appropriated from the General Revenue Trust Fund to the  
222 Department of Economic Opportunity for transfer to the Florida  
223 Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to fund the State Housing  
224 Initiative Program (SHIP). The FHFC shall allocate the funding  
225 to all eligible counties and cities. Except as otherwise  
226 specified in this section, local governments must use this  
227 funding according to the SHIP statute and rules and within the  
228 parameters of their adopted local housing assistance plan.

229 (2) All funding appropriated under this section must be  
230 targeted for one or more of the following strategies:

231 (a) Rehabilitating or modifying owner-occupied houses,  
232 including blighted homes or neighborhoods.



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233 (b) Assisting with purchases of existing housing, with or  
234 without rehabilitation.

235 (c) Providing housing counseling services.

236 (d) Providing lease-purchase assistance.

237 (e) Implementing strategies approved by FHFC which are  
238 related to assisting households and communities impacted by  
239 foreclosures, using existing housing stock.

240 (3) Of the funding provided in this section, each local  
241 government must use a minimum of 20 percent of its allocation to  
242 serve persons with special needs as defined in s. 420.0004,  
243 Florida Statutes. Before this portion of the allocation is  
244 released by FHFC, a local government must certify that it will  
245 meet this requirement through existing approved strategies in  
246 the local assistance plan or submit a new local housing  
247 assistance plan strategy for this purpose to the FHFC for  
248 approval to ensure that it meets these specifications. The first  
249 priority of these special needs funds must be to use them for  
250 persons with developmental disabilities as defined in s.  
251 393.063, Florida Statutes, with an emphasis on home  
252 modifications, including technological enhancements and devices,  
253 which will allow homeowners to remain independent in their own  
254 homes and maintain their homeownership.

255 (4) Local governments may not use more than 3 percent of  
256 their allocations under this section for administrative costs.

257 Section 11. The nonrecurring sum of \$10 million is  
258 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
259 Economic Opportunity for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance  
260 Corporation (FHFC) to fund a competitive grant program to  
261 provide housing for homeless persons. The FHFC shall award funds

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262 on a competitive basis to private nonprofit organizations to  
263 purchase and renovate existing houses and to construct small  
264 specialty housing of 15 units or fewer for homeless individuals  
265 or families, with priority given to extremely-low-income  
266 households.

267 Section 12. The nonrecurring sum of \$10 million is  
268 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
269 Economic Opportunity for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance  
270 Corporation (FHFC) to fund a competitive grant program for  
271 housing developments designed, constructed, and targeted for  
272 persons with developmental disabilities as defined in s.  
273 393.063, Florida Statutes. Private nonprofit organizations whose  
274 primary mission includes serving persons with developmental  
275 disabilities as defined in s. 393.063, Florida Statutes, shall  
276 be eligible for these grant funds. Housing projects funded with  
277 these grants may include community residential homes as defined  
278 in s. 419.001, Florida Statutes, or individual housing units,  
279 and may include new construction and renovation of existing  
280 housing units. In evaluating proposals for these funds, the FHFC  
281 shall consider: the extent to which funds from local and other  
282 sources will be used by the applicant to leverage the grant  
283 funds provided under this section; employment opportunities and  
284 supports that will be available to residents of the proposed  
285 housing; a plan for residents to effectively and efficiently  
286 access community-based services, resources, and amenities; and  
287 partnerships with other supportive services agencies.

288 Section 13. Except as otherwise provided in section 7 of  
289 this act, notwithstanding s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, and  
290 pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes, entities to which

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291 funds are appropriated pursuant to this act may expend such  
292 funds through the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Any funds that are  
293 encumbered by June 30, 2015, must be disbursed by September 30,  
294 2015. On September 30, 2015, any funds that remain undisbursed  
295 must be transferred to the State Housing Trust Fund within the  
296 Department of Economic Opportunity.

297       Section 14. This act shall take effect upon the deposit of  
298 \$200,080,474 into the General Revenue Fund from the escrow  
299 account created as a result of the consent judgment entered into  
300 by the Attorney General on April 4, 2012, in the case of United  
301 States of America, et al. v. Bank of America Corp., et al., No.  
302 12-0361-RMC, in the United States District Court for the  
303 District of Columbia.